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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: October 2, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Birmingham Office has furnished information received from Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Macey Taylor who received it from Arthur Hanes, one of James Earl Ray's former attorneys. Hanes is a former Bureau Agent and an individual who will do anything for publicity. He is known to be closely affiliated with the United Klans of America and as an attorney has represented many Klan members.

AUSA Taylor advised that Hanes contends that Ray was involved in a gunrunning conspiracy with one [redacted] one [redacted] one [redacted] and one [redacted] Hanes claimed that Ray was in Memphis at the time of the shooting of King for the purpose of disposing of these weapons (rifles and other automatic weapons) to black militants in that city and the guns were obtained through Pascagoula, Mississippi, implying that they came from outside the country.

Hanes also told AUSA Taylor that when he reviewed the evidence as Ray's attorney he noted that one rifle slug which had been obtained from the body of the victim was not mutilated beyond comparison purposes but he had been informed that only partial fragments of the fatal bullet were recovered which would preclude possible identification. It is to be noted that only one bullet slug was recovered from King's body and although because of mutilation it cannot be identified as having been fired from the suspect gun, it was the type of projectile which would have been fired from such weapon. No information has been developed to substantiate any conspiracy involving James Earl Ray in connection with the King murder or any so called gunrunning.

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ACTION:

Although investigation to date has failed to connect Ray with any gunrunning, it is felt Hanes should be interviewed for any additional details so that it can be appropriately run out.

EJM:jmv
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